

Appl. No. 10/517,402
Amdt. Dated May 18, 2009
Reply to Office Action Mailed February 18, 2009

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A surgical tack for attaching a material to tissue comprising:

a head having a drive thread formed on an outer surface thereof, the drive thread forming a single incomplete convolution of the head being one of a right hand thread or left hand thread;
a barrel portion extending from the head and having a tissue engaging thread formed on an outer surface thereof and extending substantially along an entire length of the barrel portion, wherein a distal end of the drive thread and a proximal end of the tissue engaging thread define a gap therebetween, ~~the tissue engaging thread having the same right hand or left hand thread as the drive thread;~~ wherein the proximal end of the tissue engaging thread is in the same plane as the distal end of the drive thread and the plane is substantially transverse to a longitudinal axis of the barrel portion; and
a throughbore extending through the head and barrel portion for receipt of a drive tool.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The surgical tack as recited in claim 21, further comprising a transition zone between the drive thread and the tissue engaging thread.

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Claim 24 (Previously presented): The surgical tack as recited in claim 21, wherein a leading edge of the drive thread is tapered.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The surgical tack as recited in claim 21, wherein the throughbore has a D-shaped cross-section.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The surgical tack as recited in claim 21, wherein a leading edge of the drive thread is chamfered.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The surgical tack as recited in claim 21, wherein the maximum diameter of the drive thread is greater than the maximum diameter of the tissue engaging thread.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The surgical tack as recited in any of the preceding claims, wherein the throughbore has a D-shaped cross-section for receipt of an installation tool.

Claims 29-31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The surgical tack as recited in claim 21 wherein the barrel portion includes a smooth or rounded leading edge.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The surgical tack as recited in claim 21 wherein the head is configured to facilitate removal of the tack.

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Claim 34 (Previously presented): The surgical tack of claim 21, wherein the drive thread and the tissue engaging thread have substantially the same pitch.

Claim 35 (Currently amended): A surgical tack comprising:

a head having a first thread formed thereon, the first thread forming a single incomplete convolution of the head;

a barrel portion extending from the head, the barrel portion having a second thread extending substantially along an entire length thereof, ~~the first-and-second-threads-being-formed-in-the-same-right-hand-or-left-hand-direction~~, wherein a leading edge of the first thread and a trailing edge of the second thread are spaced apart thereby defining a discontinuity therebetween, the leading edge of the first thread and the trailing edge of the second thread are both in a common plane, the common plane extends through a longitudinal axis of the barrel portion; and a throughbore extending through the tack for receipt of a drive tool.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The surgical tack of claim 35, wherein the first thread and the second thread have substantially the same pitch.

Claims 37-39 (Canceled).

Claim 40 (Previously presented): A surgical tack for attaching a material to tissue comprising:

a head having a drive thread formed on an outer surface thereof, the drive thread forming a single incomplete convolution of the head being one of a right hand thread or left hand thread;

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and

a barrel portion extending from the head and having a tissue engaging thread formed on an outer surface thereof and extending substantially along an entire length of the barrel portion,
~~the tissue engaging thread having the same right hand or left hand thread as the drive thread,~~
wherein a distal end of the drive thread is radially spaced from a proximal end of the tissue engaging thread within a plane that extends through a longitudinal axis of the barrel portion.

Claim 41 (Previously presented): The surgical tack of claim 40, further comprising:
a throughbore extending through the head and barrel portion for receipt of a drive tool.

Claim 42 (Previously presented): The surgical tack of claim 40, wherein the drive thread and the tissue engaging thread have substantially the same pitch.

Claim 43 (Previously presented): The surgical tack as recited in claim 40 wherein the barrel portion includes a smooth or rounded leading edge.

Claim 44 (Previously presented): The surgical tack as recited in claim 40, wherein the head is configured to facilitate removal of the tack.

Claim 45-47 (Canceled).

Claim 48 (New): The surgical tack as recited in claim 21, wherein a gap is formed between a first end of the drive thread and a second end of the drive thread.

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Claim 49 (New): The surgical tack as recited in claim 21, wherein a first end of the drive thread is laterally spaced from a second end of the drive thread.